

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A rain-screen apparatus including:
a substantially rigid air barrier adapted for attachment to a building structure;
a rain-screen panel adapted for attachment over the air barrier;
a spacing member adapted to provide a clearance space between the air barrier
and the rain-screen panel; and
sealing means adapted to provide substantial pressure equalisation within the clearance space.
2. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 including an air vent to atmosphere from said pressure equalised space to allow air pressure within said space to equalise with air pressure externally of said space.
3. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said apparatus is suitable for use on building frames with studs placed at a predetermined interval such that said apparatus resists water ingress under predetermined wind pressure.
4. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said studs are placed at between approximately 400 and 610 mm centre to centre and said predetermined wind pressure is greater than approximately 1 kPa and less than approximately 4.5 kPa.
5. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said rigid air barrier is comprised of any polymeric or cellulosic or cementitious material suitably reinforced to provide the degree of rigidity required to resist water ingress when incorporated into said rain-screen apparatus and exposed to a predetermined wind pressure according to a standardized wind test.
6. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said rigid air barrier is in the form of a panel.
7. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said air barrier panel is between approximately 2-15mm thick.

8. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said air barrier panel is between 5-7mm thick.

9. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said air barrier panel includes fibre cement, oriented strand-board, plywood, metal, expanded polymeric foam or a combination of these.

10. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said air barrier panel is substantially formed from fibre cement.

11. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said panel includes a sheet of polymeric or substantially water repellent cellulosic material attached to the exterior surface of the panel so as substantially to prevent water from passing therethrough.

12. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said air barrier panel has at least the exterior side treated with a material that repels water.

13. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said air barrier panel includes a water repellent material.

14. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said rigid air barrier is in the form of at least one thin sheet comprising a polymeric or substantially water repellent cellulosic material, said sheet having a relatively rigid reinforcing means attached thereto.

15. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said sheet includes a polyolefin material having a relatively rigid reinforcing means including a mesh of fibreglass, metal or polymeric material laminated to at least one surface of said sheet.

16. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said sheet includes a polyolefin material having a relatively rigid reinforcing means including a series of battens laminated to at least one surface of said sheet.

17. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said rain-screen panel includes a cementitious material, oriented strand-board, plywood, metal, polymeric foam or a combination of these.

18. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said rain-screen panel is between approximately 2-11mm thick.
19. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said rain-screen panel is between approximately 7-11mm thick.
20. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said rain-screen panel is around 9mm thick.
21. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said rain-screen panel is substantially formed from fibre cement.
22. (Previously presented) The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said rain-screen panel is formed from an exterior cladding material.
23. (Previously presented) A rain-screen air barrier joint seal for sealing a joint between at least two adjacent rigid air barrier of the rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1, said seal including a sealing strip of a substantially resilient material having a first surface and a second surface opposite to said first surface, said first surface being adapted to contact said rigid air barriers, and at least one batten provided in use over said second surface of the seal strip, said batten being in contact with the second surface so as to maintain said first surface of the strip in contact with the region of said air barrier adjacent to said joint.
24. (Previously presented) The rain-screen air barrier joint seal according to claim 23 wherein said first surface has an adhesive provided thereon.
25. (Previously presented) The rain-screen air barrier joint seal according to claim 23 wherein said second surface has an adhesive provided thereon.
26. (Previously presented) A rain-screen flashing including a first edge portion adapted to be located on or adjacent to a lower edge of said air barrier of said rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1, a second edge portion adapted to be located on or adjacent to an upper region of said rain-screen panel provided below said air barrier, and a central portion which is contiguous with said first and second edge portions and is provided at a substantially obtuse angle to said first and second edge portions.
27. (Previously presented) The rain-screen flashing according to claim 26 wherein said central portion slopes downwardly to allow water to drain over said central portion and exterior to said rain-screen panel.

28. (Previously presented) A rain-screen vent for the rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 having a rigid air barrier and a rain-screen panel and a space therebetween, said vent including a first wall adapted for location on or adjacent to said air barrier, a second wall adapted to be located on or adjacent to an internal surface of said rain-screen panel, and a central portion connected between said first and second walls, said central portion having one or more apertures therein allowing liquid to drain from said space and also allowing ingress of air into said space.

29. (Previously presented) A rain-screen seal construction including a batten for location on an air barrier of rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1, a sealing member having a base and at least two lips projecting from said base, said lips being spaced from each other, one lip being adapted to make a substantially sealing contact with a rear surface of a first rain-screen panel, and the second lip being adapted to make a substantially sealing contact with the rear surface of a second rain-screen panel, said second panel being located adjacent to the first panel.

30. (Previously presented) A method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1, the method including the steps of:
attaching said rigid air barrier to an external side of building framing;
attaching one or more battens over an exterior surface of said rigid air barrier; and
attaching said rain-screen panel over at least one of said battens.

31. (Previously presented) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rigid air barrier is in the form of a panel.

32. (Previously presented) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 31 wherein said air barrier panel is between approximately 2-15mm thick.

33. (Previously presented) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 31 wherein said air barrier panel is between approximately 5-7mm thick.

34. (Previously presented) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 31 wherein said air barrier panel includes fibre cement, oriented strand-board, plywood, metal, expanded polymeric foam or a combination of these.

35. (Previously presented) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 31 wherein said air barrier panel is substantially formed from fibre cement.

36. (Previously presented) The method of constructing the rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rain-screen panel includes a cementitious material, oriented strand-board, plywood, metal, polymeric foam or a combination of these.

37. (Previously presented) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rain-screen panel is between approximately 2-11 mm thick.

38. (Previously presented) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rain-screen panel is between approximately 7-11 mm thick.

39. (Previously presented) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rain-screen panel is substantially 9mm thick.

40. (Previously presented) The method of constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rain-screen panel is substantially formed from fibre cement.

41. (Previously presented) A method for constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 including the steps of:

providing said rigid air barrier;

coating said air barrier with a water resistant material,

attaching one or more battens over an exterior surface of said air barrier;

fixing said rain-screen panel over said battens such that said rain-screen panel is spaced from said air barrier; and

coating the exterior surface of said rain-screen panel with a substantially water resistant material.

42. (Previously presented) The method for constructing a rain-screen apparatus according to claim 41 wherein one or both of said rigid air barrier or said rain-screen panel is substantially formed from fibre reinforced cement.